Revision of Trade Union Act, 1926

583. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise Trade Union Act of 1926;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has approached Government to eliminate interference and politicisation of the Trade Unions; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28.4.2000. The Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for their examination and report.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Legal Protection to Contract Labourers

584. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of contract labour and construction workers in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to give legal protection to the contract labour and construction workers;

(d) whether new legislations are proposed to be enacted for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) The Central Government have enacted the Contract Labour

(Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Building & Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interests of contract labour and construction workers respectively. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 regulates the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances. These Acts and the rules made thereunder also provide for the regulation of conditions of work, payment of wages and other amenities relating to welfare, health and safety of these workers. Provisions of these Acts are considered adequate for meeting all bonafide concerns in respect of these workers. However, in the light of the experience gathered in the administration of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the judgements of various courts, a review of this Act, with a view to restructure and bring it in tune with the changing times, has been undertaken.

Sanctioned posts of Judges in Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals

585. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases lying pending with Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals as on date;

(b) the total number of sanctioned posts of Judges for these Courts;

(c) whether all these posts have been filled up;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when these posts are likely to be filled to dispose of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A statement showing the number of cases pending with various Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is annexed. (*See* below)

(b) to (e) There are 17 sanctioned posts of Presiding Officer